

# The Governor's Education Reform Package



February 2012

## Governor Malloy's Comprehensive Education Reform Package

This interlocking package of education reforms increases our commitment, elevates the profession, and delivers – for all of Connecticut's students – a world class education.

We used to lead in public education, now we lead in achievement gaps; we must lead once more to be economically competitive.

## Early Childhood Education

“Enhance families’ access to high-quality early childhood education opportunities”

- \$4 million for 500 new slots focused on priority districts
- \$3 million for workforce training and quality enhancements for our early childhood educators, unlicensed family providers and family, friends, and neighbor caregivers
- \$5 million infrastructure investment in TQRIS

## Turnaround of Low-Performing Schools

“Authorize the intensive interventions and enable the supports necessary to turn around Connecticut’s lowest-performing schools and districts”

### Commissioner’s Network

- Schools selected from among lowest performing
- Led and supported by new State Turnaround Office
- Administered by home district or directly by state, as trustee
- Platform for sharing of best practices and innovative initiatives
- \$24.8 million in new resources for start up, coordination, and compensation
- Up to 25 schools over the next two years
- Operated by diverse entities including universities, RESCs, non-profits, charter management organizations, CommPACT, and other providers with proven school designs and track records

## Turnaround of Low-Performing Schools

“Authorize the intensive interventions and enable the supports necessary to turn around Connecticut’s lowest-performing schools and districts”

The Commissioner’s Network will:

- Ensure teacher and leader effectiveness
  - Compensation innovation to attract, retain, and advance talented teachers and leaders
  - Mutual consent approach to staffing
- Restructure schools to meet student needs - extend day and/or year to increase learning time
- Employ a community schools approach - strengthen wrap-around services

## Expanded Choice Options

“Expand the availability of high-quality school models, including traditional schools, magnets, charters, and others”

- State Charter Schools
  - Increase in per pupil spending from \$9400 to \$12,000 (\$1600 increase in state contribution, \$1000 in local contribution)
  - Expand cap to allow 5 new state charters (\$3.1 million)
  - Increased accountability to focus recruitment and retainment of:
    - Low achieving students
    - Students with social/behavioral challenges
    - English language learners (ELL)
    - Students with disabilities
    - Students eligible for free or reduced price lunch
  - Sending districts can petition the State Board of Education to include their charter school student test scores in their overall town scores

## Expanded Choice Options

“Expand the availability of high-quality school models, including traditional schools, magnets, charters, and others”

- New and Replicated Schools
  - \$2.5 million for CommPACT, community schools, and local charter schools in low-performing districts
  - Establishes a \$3000 per pupil incentive to establish or reconstitute as a local charter
- Non-Sheff Magnet Schools
  - \$5 million increase to equalize grants in non-Sheff Magnet schools
- Connecticut Technical High Schools
  - Establish a new and independent governing body
  - Annual strategic plan to report on labor market needs, workforce development, and educational practices that revitalize CTHSS student preparation
  - \$500,000 for additional trade supplies
- Agricultural Science Programs
  - Create competitive process for agricultural high schools to increase percent of priority school students enrolled
  - \$750,000 additional funding to be distributed amongst Ag-Science schools

## Promoting School District Innovation

“Unleash innovation by removing red tape and other barriers to success, especially in high-performing schools and districts”

- Establish a red-tape removal task force to identify and determine outdated and outmoded rules and regulations
- Streamline overall certification process
- Enable certification reciprocity for out-of-state teachers

## Teacher & Principal Talent

“Ensure that our schools are home to the very best teachers and principals – working within a fair system that values skill and effectiveness over seniority and tenure”

- Higher entrance requirements to teacher prep. programs
- \$1M to recruit top college students into teaching with new financial incentives; emphasize minority recruitment
- \$500K to overhaul accreditation and hold education schools accountable to stronger performance
- \$1M for CT Leadership Academy to prepare next generation of school leaders
- \$2M to recruit talent development non-profits to CT

## Teacher & Principal Talent

“Ensure that our schools are home to the very best teachers and principals – working within a fair system that values skill and effectiveness over seniority and tenure”

- **New Evaluation and Support System**
  - Four-level rating system:
    - Exemplary, Proficient, Developing or Below Standard
  - Applies to teachers and administrators
  - Student achievement the single most significant factor
  - \$2.5M to implement through training and technical assistance
- **Meaningful Professional Development and Support**
  - Individualized and job-embedded through teams and coaches
  - Aligned to evaluation results
  - Districts required to provide; teachers required to participate
  - Replaces lecture-style CEUs with limit on large-group PD
  - \$5M to enhance support

## Teacher & Principal Talent

“Ensure that our schools are home to the very best teachers and principals – working within a fair system that values skill and effectiveness over seniority and tenure”

- Certification aligned to Performance and Career State
  - “Initial” certificate prior to tenure
  - “Professional” certificate after achieving tenure; MA required at renewal for struggling teachers
  - “Master” certificate for exemplary educators; must have evaluation-aligned MA

## Teacher & Principal Talent

“Ensure that our schools are home to the very best teachers and principals – working within a fair system that values skill and effectiveness over seniority and tenure”

- Establish fair standards for teaching performance and tenure.
- Make Tenure a Mark of Distinction
- Maintains—but Streamlines—Due Process

## State Support for Transformation

“Deliver more resources, targeted to districts with the greatest need – provided that they embrace key reforms that position our students for success”

- No reduction in state funds to any Connecticut municipality
- Streamlined Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula to reflect today’s educational challenges
- Revitalized SDE to partner with all schools
- *Recap: Additional funding for new and existing charters with increased accountability for students in need*
- *Recap: Increased support for our lowest performing schools to raise achievement*

## Other Education Initiatives

- \$500,000 for Common Core/international standards alignment
- \$500,000 for a personalized learning pilot
- \$500,000 for college readiness assessment
- \$500,000 for college financial aid preparation assistance for needy families
- \$300,000 for a K-3 reading assessment pilot
- \$300,000 for technical assistance for regional cooperation and efficiency, plus Common Charts of Accounts initiative
- \$77,000 for a food corps initiative and pilot to establish school cafeteria food nutrition rating systems